

REMARKS

Applicants submit this Amendment, together with an English-language translation of Japanese Patent Document No. 2001-336,872 A (“JP ’872”), in reply to the Office Action mailed March 22, 2006.

In this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 to delete the recitation “opening/closing”. Applicants also amend the specification, Abstract of the Disclosure, and claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 to improve clarity.

Before entry of the Amendment, claims 1-8 were pending in this application. After entry of the Amendment, claims 1-8 remain pending in the application.

The originally filed specification, claims, Abstract of the Disclosure, and drawings fully support the amendments to the specification, Abstract of the Disclosure, and claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8. No new matter is introduced.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure; rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2; and rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by JP ’872.

Abstract of the Disclosure

In the Amendment, Applicants amend the Abstract of the Disclosure. Applicants submit that this change obviates the Examiner’s objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure.

Opening/Closing

In the Amendment, Applicants also amend claim 1 to delete the recitation “opening/closing”. Applicants submit that this change obviates the Examiner’s rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2.

JP ’872

Applicants submit an English-language translation of JP ’872 together with the Amendment in order to supplement the Japanese-language version of JP ’872 and the associated machine translation into the English language, both provided by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Paragraph [0027] and [0028] of the English-language translation of JP ’872 recite “[a] synthetic resin handle base 6 coupled to a door 7 together with the handle 5 through a screw 10 absorbs a size difference from a round shape of the door 7 to hide a coupling part (the opposite parts) of the handle 5, thereby enhancing integrality or design” and “[w]hen the handle 5 or the handle base 6 is replaced, the screw 10 should be unscrewed”. Thus, Applicants submit that the disclosure of JP ’872 is limited to joining handle 5 to handle base 6 and then fixing them to door 7 with screw 10.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)—Independent Claim 1

Claim 1 recites, inter alia, “a door-handle assembly mounted to a front of the door”, “wherein the door-handle assembly comprises[] a door handle[] and a supporting bracket installed in the front of the door”, wherein the door handle comprises[] a bracket-accommodating portion[] and a first coupling portion adjacent to the bracket-accommodating portion”, “wherein the supporting bracket comprises a second coupling portion”, “wherein the already installed

supporting bracket is accommodated in the bracket-accommodating portion”, and “wherein the second coupling portion is then locked to the first coupling portion by sliding the door handle”. Thus, the supporting bracket is already installed in the front of the door before it is accommodated in the bracket-accommodating portion and also before the second coupling portion is locked to the first coupling portion by sliding the door handle. However, as discussed above, JP '872 does not disclose these recitations.

Because “[a] claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference” MPEP 2131 (8th ed., Rev. 3, Aug. 2005), quoting Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987), and because “[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim” MPEP 2131 (8th ed., Rev. 3, Aug. 2005), quoting Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236 (Fed. Cir. 1989), Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the cited references, including JP '872 and the other art of record.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)—Dependent Claims 2-8

Applicants submit that dependent claims 2-8 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the cited references, including JP '872 and the other art of record, at least due to the direct or indirect dependency of claims 2-8 from independent claim 1.

Request for Reconsideration and Allowance

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appl. No. 10/821,169

Docket No. Q80860

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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